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*Registration of marriages in the State.*

* 6 *Q.*—Dr. S. MUTHULAKSHMI REDDI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Law be pleased to state whether the Government have any proposal :

(i) to register all marriages in the state as in the case of births and deaths; and

(ii) to insist upon medical examination of the couple by a Registered Medical Practitioner or a Civil Surgeon before the registration of their marriage?

The Hon. Sri K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAIR :—" The answer is in the negative."

Dr. S. MUTHULAKSHMI REDDI :—" Will the Government consider the suggestion to get all marriages registered under an Act, as is done in the case of births and deaths? "

The Hon. Sri K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAIR :—" It is too early for us to consider it now. According to some other Acts, the registration of certain marriages is made compulsory. In some cases we have to bring in a legislation because those marriages were not registered. We have got to see whether society would accept all those marriages till we bring in an appropriate legislation to legalise them."

Dr. C. NATHAMUNI NAIDU :—" May I know whether the marriages performed by the Dravida Kazhagam and the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam will be recognized by Government? "

The Hon. Sri K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAIR :—" Those marriages were not registered. That is why we are contemplating enacting a legislation to legalise those marriages."

Dr. S. MUTHULAKSHMI REDDI :—" May I know, Sir, if any private member of this House were to introduce a Bill that all marriages should be registered, the Government would give their support to that Bill? "

The Hon. Sri K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAIR :—" If and when such a Bill is brought before the House, we will consider the clauses of the Bill and then only we shall be able to come to any decision."

Sri K. BHASHYAM :—" Is the Hon. Minister for Law aware of the fact that in the Bill recently introduced in Parliament for the reform of the Hindu Law of marriage, there is a special provision for registration of marriages? "

The Hon. Sri K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAIR :—" Yes, Sir. The State Government have got to consider whether any legislation on that line has to be undertaken and it will take some time before any such Bill is brought."

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DR. S. MUTHULAKSHMI REDDI :—" May I know whether the State Government have given their opinion on the Hindu Code Bill now before Parliament? "

THE HON. SRI K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAIR :—" On this point there was no occasion for us to give our opinion."

SRI MOHAMED USMAN :—" Supposing Government come to the conclusion that all marriages should be registered, would it affect the marriages performed in accordance with Hindu, Muslim or Christian Law? "

THE HON. SRI K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAIR :—" Those marriages are of course legal. Any future legislation would apply only to future marriages."

SRI MOHAMED USMAN :—" I am speaking of future marriages only. Supposing some people do not register marriages performed according to the customary Hindu, Muslim or Christian law, will those marriages be considered illegal? "

THE HON. SRI K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAIR :—" Of course if the customs and manners of any particular sect do not warrant compulsory registration, that aspect will be duly considered."

DR. V. K. JOHN :—" How long will it take for the State Government to consider this matter and how long will they take to ascertain whether the public opinion is favourable to the suggestion made or not? "

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" The question of ordering a universal registration of all marriages irrespective of the caste, community or custom of the people concerned is engaging the attention of Parliament and of the Government of India. There is nothing to be gained by entering into a discursive discussion now. There are two aspects of the problem. Hon. Members should not confuse one with the other. One aspect of the problem is whether marriages should be performed only after registration. The second aspect is whether registration is to be made compulsory in respect of all marriages performed according to the prescribed laws and as such for the failure to get registration of those marriages, a duty or penalty may be provided."

SRI V. CHAKKARAI CHETTY :—" May I know from the Hon. Chief Minister whether he is not aware that compulsory registration of marriages is confirmed only to certain sections of Indians, viz., the Indian Christians? "

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" The question that is engaging attention is the general law as regards registration. There are various kinds of registration. For instance, under the Christian Act, the priests who perform the marriages can themselves register and it is enough if they

send a report of the proof of the marriage that took place to the Registrar of Marriages. The question is whether in respect of other customary marriages where there is no such register, any compulsory registration should be imposed."

*Opening of additional District Munsifs' Courts in North Arcot.*

* 7 *Q.*—Dr. C. NATHAMUNI NAIDU: Will the Hon. the Minister for Law be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any additional District Munsifs' Courts are opened once in two years at Tiruppattur and whether any suits are transferred from Tiruppattur to Vellore on account of large pendency at Tiruppattur; and

(*b*) whether the Government have any proposal to open a permanent District Munsif's Court either at Ambur or at Gudiyatham to relieve the congestion?

The Hon. Sri K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAIR :—" (*a*) An Additional District Munsif was appointed to the District Munsif's Court, Tiruppattur, during the years 1943–44, 1948–49 and 1953 to relieve congestion.

In December 1951, 58 old suits relating to the Gudiyatham taluk and the Ambur firka, which are nearer to Vellore, were transferred from the District Munsif's Court at Tiruppattur, to the District Munsif's Court at Vellore, in view of the large pendency and the need for immediate relief. Of the 58 old suits referred to, 13 suits were later re-transferred to the District Munsif's Court, Tiruppattur.

" (*b*) There is no proposal to open any District Munsif's Court either at Ambur or at Gudiyatham."

Dr. C. NATHAMUNI NAIDU :—" May I know whether the Hon. Minister is aware of the fact that there was no presiding Judge on duty at Vellore immediately after the re-opening of the Court after the summer recess for over fifteen days, thereby causing great inconvenience to the clients? "

The Hon. Sri K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAIR :—" A separate question may be put."

*Repairs to Kondangi lake in Cuddalore.*

* 8 *Q.*—Sri M. ETHIRAJULU : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government received any mahazar from the ryots of Cuddalore, South Arcot district, in the month of June 1952 to repair Kondangi lake in Cuddalore and to dig a new canal from Arisiperiangkuppam to Kondangi lake; and

(*b*) if so, the action taken thereon?

The Hon. Raja Sri SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" (*a*) Yes.